

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 21223 220043Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-06
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, ETEL, MX
SUBJECT: SATELLITE TELECONFERENCING FOR TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER

REF: STATE 293375

1. AS GENERAL COMMENTS, THE TECHNICALLY ELITE IN MEXICO HAVE CLOSE TIES WITH US COUNTERPARTS AND ATTENDANCE AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS IN U.S. (AND BY AMERICANS IN MEXICO) APPEARS GREATER THAN FOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN LATAM. CONACYT CURRENTLY OPERATES A NETWORK OF COMPUTER TERMINALS LINKED TO DATA BANKS IN US. THUS, IN A SENSE, TELECONFERENCING WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO BE AS DRAMATIC AN IMPROVEMENT HERE (AND A DEMONSTRATION LESS SPECTACULAR) THAN IT WOULD BE IN A LESSER DEVELOPED OR MOST DISTANT COUNTRY. ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL OF ABOVE FACTORS PLUS WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH HERE MAKE MEXICO A PRIME PROSPECT FOR MORE WIDESPREAD USE OF SUCH TECHNIQUES.

2. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILED RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 4 REFTEL, KEYED TO THAT PARA:

A. MEXICO IS USING SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. WE ARE
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UNAWARE OF SPECIFIC INTEREST IN VIDEO TELECONFERENCING.

B. MEXICO HAS ACTIVE INTEREST IN ALL PROFESSIONAL FIELDS. NATIONAL (GOVERNMENTAL) INTEREST PROBABLY GREATEST NOW IN ENERGY (PARTICULARLY OIL AND GAS), AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH (AND FAMILY PLANNING), LABOR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES, FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT (AND

RELATED OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH), AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THOUGH THERE ARE MANY OTHERS.

C. WE BELIEVE EDUCATED MEXICANS TEND TO HAVE BETTER GRASP OF ENGLISH THAN PROBABLY ANY OTHER NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY IN REGION. A PARTICIPATING PANEL COULD PROBABLY BE FORMED HERE WITH ENGLISH COMPETENCE IN ANY FIELD WHICH IS SELECTED.

D. MOST ACTIVE PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION ARE, WE BELIEVE, IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, OCEANOGRAPHY AND ENERGY (E.G. GEOTHERMAL). WE HAVE NO FIGURES ON NUMBER OF MEXICAN EXPERTS IN THESE FIELDS, BUT IT IS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER.

E. POPULATION IS SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE AND WOULD BEST NOT BE TREATED IN SUCH A DEMONSTRATION. LIKEWISE, PETROLEUM AND GAS MIGHT BE BETTER LEFT OUT.

F. DESIRABLE TOPICS MIGHT BE ADVANCED ENERGY SOURCES, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, MEDICINE, OCEANOGRAPHY, OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. ALL HAVE REASONABLY HIGH DEGREE OF MEXICAN COMPETENCE AND CONSIDERABLE MUTUAL INTEREST.

G. NO, EXCEPT THAT DEC 15 - JAN 15 AND LATE MAY PERIODS SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

H. UNAVAILABLE NOW, BUT COULD BE OBTAINED IF SERIOUS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO MEXICO. THERE ARE MANY, MANY SUCH MEETINGS.

I. GOM COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE. IT WOULD BE BEST TO MAKE INITIAL ARRANGEMENTS AS WELL WITH THE FONSEC AND CONACYT.

J. ALL NECESSARY TV EQUIPMENT CAN BE FOUND HERE. IN ADDITION, THERE IS THE DIRECT LINK WITH THE U.S. NOW VIA CABLEVISION.

K. OBVIOUSLY WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT WE IMAGINE THAT CONACYT WOULD BE RECEPTIVE. WOULD EXPECT MEXICO TO CONTRIBUTE SITE AND PERSONNEL, BUT LITTLE MORE IN WAY OF DIRECT FUNDING, ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED.

L. EMBASSY WOULD FAVOR SUCH A PROJECT. LUCEY

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Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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